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U.S. House of Representatives

Washington, DC 20515-6035

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August 30, 2019

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The Honorable Mick Mulvaney
Director
The Office of Management and Budget
725 17th Street, NW
Washington, DC 20503

Dear Mr. Mulvaney,

We write to you regarding the provision of security assistance to Ukraine. The Office of Management and Budget is preventing the release of funding for the Ukraine Security Assistance Initiative (USAI), as well as other forms of security assistance to Ukraine.

This funding is critical to the accomplishment of U.S. national security objectives in Europe. It is an essential component of our ongoing effort to support the defense of Ukrainian sovereignty and respond to Russia's illegal occupation of Crimea, the first attempted forcible annexation of another country's territory since World War II. Congress responded to this action on a bipartisan basis by authorizing USAI in the Fiscal Year 2016 National Defense Authorization Act and has continued to support such assistance since that time. As Ukraine continues to make critical reforms and defend its sovereignty, the provision of support to Ukraine is a concrete measure of our commitment to our partners and to upholding our shared values in the face of an ongoing campaign by Russia to undermine and divide us.


Please inform the House Armed Services Committee as to why these funds are being held and when they will be released. We expect that these programs will be executed in the way Congress has directed, every year since their creation. Now is not the time to withdraw assistance to Ukraine and to do so goes against Congressional intent.

Thank you for attention to this urgent matter and I look forward to hearing from you.

Sincerely,



Adam Smith
Chairman



William "Mac" Thornberry
Ranking Member

AS/WMT:msh